

CLAIMS

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A method for controlling access to user interface elements in a computer program having a plurality of different user interface elements, said process comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a means to establish the access profile of the current user of a computer program, and authorizing administrative access to a user interface element security setup and control means determined by the current user's access profile;
- (b) providing a means to establish the existence of each user interface element and its access properties;
- (c) providing a means to select each user interface element;
- (d) providing means to display the access properties of each user interface element;
- (e) providing a means to change the access properties of each user interface element;
- (f) saving the changed access properties in a database means; and
- (g) returning said computer program to normal mode of operation.

2. A process as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

indexing the said access profile of the current user of the computer program with the said corresponding access properties for each said user interface element on the displayed program window.

3. A process as defined in claim 1, further comprising:

controlling the display of each said user interface element contained in the said program window by comparing the said access profile of each user with the said access properties of each user interface element; and

displaying only those user interface elements in the program window that have access properties equal to or less than the access profile of the said current user.

4. A process as defined in claim 3 further comprising:

blanking, hiding, obscuring, or otherwise limiting data or functionality of all user interface elements in the displayed program window whose access properties are greater than the access profile of the said current user.

WHEREBY, an administrator can set the security level access profile of all users of the computer program and interactively assign security level access properties to individual user interface elements; and therefore not be limited by any previously determined and rigid interface access control schemes of the display windows' properties assigned by the software programmer at the time of creation of the software.

WHEREBY, an administrator can interactively set access properties to all available user interface elements on any particular window and in any manner or method the administrator deems proper for their particular use or application of the software program; thus giving greater control and ease of use to the administrators and users of the computer program.

5. A system for controlling access to user interface elements in a computer program having a plurality of different user interface elements, comprising:

- (a) a main computer program means;
- (b) a user profile management means;
- (c) a user interface element security setup and control means;
- (d) a user interface element properties means; and
- (e) a user interface element display management means.

6. A main computer program means as claimed in claim 5, further including a graphical user interface that contains one or more user interface elements that represent data, functions, or processes of the main computer program.

7. A user access management means as claimed in claim 5, further including a means to establish the current user's level of security access; and permit authorized administrative access to a user interface element security setup and control means.

8. A user interface element security setup and control means as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a means to establish the existence of each user interface element in said main computer program means and display the said access properties of each user interface element; and

said access properties may be interactively changed by the administrative user.

9. A user interface element properties means as claimed in claim 5, further including a means to store said access properties of said user interface elements in a database means; and

such database means is indexed according to the properties of the user interface elements.

10. A user interface element display management means as claimed in claim 5, further including a means to limit and restrict access of individual user interface elements in the program window by comparing the current user's established access profile with the stored access properties of each user interface element on the displayed window, both contained in said database means; and

displaying only those user interface elements in the program window that have access properties equal to or less than the access profile of the said current user.

11. A user interface element display management means as claimed in claim 10, further including a means to blank, hide, obscure or otherwise limit all user interface elements in the program windows where access to the user interface element is denied.

WHEREBY, an administrator can set the security level access properties of all users of the computer program and interactively assign security level access properties to individual user interface elements; and therefore not be limited by any previously determined and rigid interface access control schemes of the display windows' properties assigned by the software programmer at the time of creation of the software.

WHEREBY, an administrator can interactively set access properties to all available user interface elements on any particular window and in any manner or method the administrator deems proper for their particular use or application of the software program; thus giving greater control and ease of use to the administrators and users of the computer program.